

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 /106 W

----- 075295

R 161130Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6877

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 9367

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ENRG, ETRD, BR

SUBJECT: COAL SHORTAGE AND BRAZILIAN STEEL PRODUCTION

REF: BRASILIA 9249

1. MAJOR BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPERS, JORNAL DO BRASIL AND O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, REPORTED DECEMBER 12, THAT DECLINE OF COAL IMPORTS THIS YEAR WILL CAUSE LOWER BRAZILIAN STEEL PRODUCTION THAN HAD BEEN FORECAST: 7.5 MILLION TONS RATHER THAN 8.4 MILLION. JORNAL SAID THAT GOVERNMENT-OWNED STEEL PLANTS CAN PRESENTLY COUNT ON RECEIVING ONLY 30 PERCENT OF COAL SUPPLIES CONTRACTED WITH US EXPORTERS AND THAT, CONSEQUENTLY, THEY ARE EXTREMELY DEPENDENT UPON DOMESTIC COAL SUPPLY, WHICH WILL IMPAIR THE EXPANSION PROGRAMS OF THE MILLS. FOR FIRST 11 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, STEEL PRODUCTION IS ONLY 5.8 PERCENT HIGHER THAN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF A YEAR EARLIER; FOR PIG IRON 4.3 PERCENT. PRESS NOTES THAT THIS SHARP PRODUCTION IN GROWTH RATE REFLECTS PRODUCTION DIFFICULTIES PARTICULARLY IN NOVEMBER.

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2. JORNAL GOES ON TO SAY THAT MINES AND ENERGY MINISTER UEKI ASSURED

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BRAZILIAN COAL INDUSTRY THAT GOB WILL
SUPPORT EMERGENCY PROGRAM DESIGNED TO INITIALLY DOUBLE DOMESTIC
COAL OUTPUT IN 1975. TO ACHIEVE THAT TARGET, COAL MINING
INDUSTRY INTENDS TO ACCELERATE CURRENT MINING MECHANIZATION
PROGRAMS, AND ACCORDING TO COAL INDUSTRY SPOKESMAN, COAL
PRODUCTION SHOULD TRIPLE WITHIN TWO OR THREE YEARS.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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